

Juan Bautista de Anza Exploration of the San Francisco Bay Area, March & April 1776



The Anza Historic Trail

he Juan Bautista de Anza
National Historic Trail is
administered by the U.S. National
Park Service. This 1,210-mile
historic route extends from
Nogales, Arizona on the U.S.Mexico border, through the
desert and coastal areas in
Southern California along the
Central Coast region to the San

The trail commemorates the story of the 1775–1776 Spanish Expedition led by Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza. The expedition left Mexico with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others bound for Alta California to colonize the region, explore, and establish San Francisco's presidio and mission. Anza's smaller East Bay exploration in March and April of 1776 is displayed in the fourteen interpretive panels throughout the East Bay, produced in collaboration with the National Park Service.

We invite you to retrace the travels of Anza and learn about the profound changes set in motion by the Expedition on the future of the people and the land around us.





East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
1-888-EBPARK5 www.ebparks.org
TDD phone 510-633-0460

This brochure is provided as a public service of the Interpretive and Recreation Services Department of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Map: Kara Haas, EBRPD GIS Cover Painting: David Rickman, courtesy of the National Park Service

Wegner Map: Kara Haas, EBRPD GIS

Text: Michael Charnofsky & Beverly Ortiz Design: Rachel Blau, Mick Cavagnaro, and Doyle Wegner

BOTANIC GARDEN

Berkeley 510-544-3169, www.nativeplants.org

COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK

COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK

SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS

SUNOL SUNOL SUNOL REGIONAL REGION

Putioch 510-544-2750, bdvisit@ebparks.org

ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM Fremont 510-544-2797, awvisit@ebparks.org

Centers listed below.

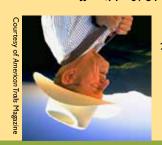
QUESTIONS: If you have any questions about the Juan Bautista de Anza Mational Historic Trail in the East Bay, call or email a Park District naturalist at one of the Visitor Centers listed below

To learn more about George Cardinet's accomplishments, visit www.pnts.org and the Mational Park Service Anza Trail site at www.nps.gov/juba.

Cardinet worked with the East Bay Regional Park District to annex Contra Costa County to the District in 1964. He established trails and trail links in and between East Bay Regional and Mount Diablo State Parks. In all, Cardinet is credited with having mapped and routed more credited with having mapped and routed more than 200 miles of trails throughout the greater East Bay region.

With his strong passion for history, Cardinet was drawn to the significance of the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition of 1775–1776. In 1976 he organized a bicentennial reenactment of 1,800 miles from Mexico City to the San Francisco Bay, riding a major portion of that trail as Lt. Joaquin riding a major portion of that trail as Lt. Joaquin Moraga, Anza's second in command. To his great delight, and as a result of his determined advocacy, the trail was designated a National Alistoric Trail in 1990.

trail advocate in the early 1940s. His efforts significantly contributed to the passage of the California Hiking and Riding Trails Act of 1945 and the National Trails System Act of 1968, which established an extensive system of scenic and historic trails.



eorge Cardinet has been called the Father of California Trails and the Grandfather of Mational Trails. A resident of Clayton and Concord, California he became a

George H. Cardinet, Jr.
April 8, 1909–January 19, 2007

The Anza Expedition of 1775-1776

n 1775 and 1776 Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, Father Pedro Font, along with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others traveled 1,200 miles from Sonora, Mexico to Monterey, California. Their purpose was to bring permanent colonists to Spain's Alta California.

After arriving in Monterey,
Anza and Font led a smaller group to choose
sites for the Mission and Presidio in San
Francisco. Then, they investigated today's

room a painting by David Rickman

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to see if there was a river running into the Bay, and explored further inland.

The travelers rode through diverse landscapes along the foothills, avoiding the

marshes in low-lying areas. After traveling



The Anza party overlooking the Golden Gate from what is now San Francisco.

David Rickman paintings courtesy of the National Park Service.

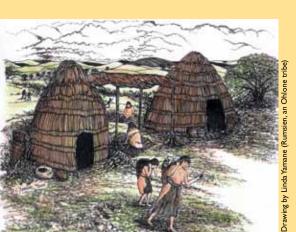
along the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo and Suisun Bays, the impassable marshlands of the Delta prevented further exploration to the east, and the expedition returned to Monterey.



Profound Changes

Anza's expedition traveled well-worn trails used by Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Northern Valley Yokuts peoples from several tribes, whose ancestors had lived in the East Bay for some 13,000 years. According to expedition diaries of Anza and Font, Native peoples responded to the newcomers with surprise, fear, and hospitality, including gifts of fish, seed "cakes," and other foods. In return the Spanish gave them glass beads.

For local tribal peoples, these encounters led to decades of disruption, dislocation, and suffering, first under Spanish rule, then under the Mexican and American governments. Despite this history, local tribal peoples find pride in preserving cultural traditions, bringing these forward into the future in both old and new ways, and work to preserve ancestral cultural sites.



When Anza and his followers traveled through the Bay Area, numerous groups of native peoples were living comfortably in small villages that dotted the landscape. This is what one of those villages may have looked like.

A Rich and Varied Landscape

The animals and landscape the Anza party saw were vastly different from what we see today, in part due to local Indian management of the land with specialized burning, digging, and pruning techniques. Fresh and saltwater marsh covered vast areas. The foothills were covered with native bunchgrasses and spring wildflowers, interspersed with oaks and buckeyes, and bordered by streamside trees and shrubs. Father Font recorded frequent sightings of pronghorn antelope, grizzly bear, and tule elk.

The Anza Expedition of 1775–1776, crucial to the Spanish colonization of the area, led to changes that over time have shaped the Bay Area that we see today.